

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator *Gillette, Guy Mark*
Served Cherokee, Ida and Plymouth counties

1. Birthday and place *3 Feb 1879 Cherokee County, Iowa*

2. Marriage (s) date place
Rose Ingersoll 17 June 1907 Randolph, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business *Director of Cherokee State Banks; admitted to the Iowa Bar in 1900*

B. Civic responsibilities *Mason; Chamber of Commerce, Cherokee County Red Cross Cherokee library board; Knights of Pythias, American Legion, VFW*

C. Profession *Lawyer; farmer and dairyman*

4. Church membership *Presbyterian*

5. Sessions served *35th and 36th General Assembly 1913 and 1915*

6. Public Offices

A. Local *County attorney; city attorney*

B. State _____

C. National *U. S. Representative 4 Mar 1933-3 Nov 1936 U. S. Senator 4 Nov 1936-3 Jan 1945 and again elected serving 3 Jan 1949-3 Jan 1955*

7. Death *3 Mar 1973 Cherokee; buried Oak Hill Cemetery in Cherokee Iowa*

8. Children *Mark*

9. Names of parents *Mark Dennis and Mary (Hull) Gillette*

10. Education Graduate of Cherokee, Iowa high school in 1896

11. Degrees Arake Law School, Des Moines, Iowa - graduate in 1900.

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- Military service - Iowa National Guard - Co. M, 40th Regt.
- Spanish American War, organized Co. M 56th IA Regt in 1909 of which he was
- Captain, resigned in 1912; World War I - Captain in the U.S. Army 1917-1919
- Began his law practice in Cherokee in 1901
- Also farmed after WWI until 1932 when he was elected
- United States Representative
- Resigned his House post in 1936 and elected to the United
- States Senate

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
- Obituary -			<u>The Cherokee Daily Times, Cherokee, Iowa, Saturday Mar. 3, 1973, col 1-6</u>
- Iowa Official Register			<u>1915-1916, p. 709</u>
- History of Cherokee County			<u>1914, p. 148-152</u>
- Iowa Press Association of This Me in Iowa			<u>1940, p. 254</u>
- Political Graveyard			<u>from internet</u>

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
19 HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT
DES MOINES, IOWA
50309

Guy M. Gillette Dies at 94



Guy Mark Gillette

Meriden to Hold A Pancake Day

MERIDEN — The annual Meriden Pancake Day sponsored by the Meriden Community Center committee has been set for March 8. Pancakes will be served all day, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

A bake sale will also be held in conjunction with the Pancake Day, all proceeds to be used to defray expenses of operating the center and provide equipment as needed.

On Monday at 8 p.m. a meeting to plan for this major fund-

Mrs. LeRoy Pedersen and Mrs. Don Wiese urge members of all organizations who use the Community Center to donate items for the bake sale.

The Center is in almost constant use as a meeting place for family gatherings, anniversaries, wedding receptions and showers as well as county-wide meetings. Its facilities are also used by the Meriden Senior Citizen organizations and 4-H

Guy Mark Gillette, credited generally as the most illustrious and famous citizen in the history of Cherokee, died Saturday at Sioux Valley Memorial Hospital, where he had been in residence for the past few years. He was 94.

Former congressman and U.S. senator, the prestigious Democrat was in public life over a span of six decades; and, until his final days, he remained aware of and interested in events of the world.

An adversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a confidant of Secretary of State Cordell Hull and other national leaders, Gillette outlived his contemporaries.

On the world scene, Gillette is remembered for his impassioned involvement in helping form the new nation of Israel.

Nationally, he is noted for his change from being an isolationist in the Thirties to an internationalist in the Forties, when he aided in establishing the United Nations.

But, in his own estimation, the most memorable contributions he made in his years of public service were in helping Iowa farmers get electric power and in promoting soybeans as a new cash crop.

In a lifetime of varied pursuits, most always concerned with helping others, he was in turn a soldier, lawyer, legislator, farmer and statesman.

Guy Mark Gillette was born in Cherokee County on Feb. 3, 1879, the son of Mark Dennis Gillette and Mary Hull.

He married Rose Freeman on June 17, 1907. She preceded him in death in 1956. Their son, Mark, now resides in Florida.

Gillette's career as a soldier began when he was only 14 years old. As a member of Company M,

Fourth Regiment, Iowa National Guard, Gillette was on duty during a railroad strike in Sioux City.

In 1896, Gillette was called into federal service during the Spanish-American War and as a sergeant, with Company M, served out the emergency in a Georgia camp.

The hometown company, which had been disbanded, was reactivated in 1910 under Gillette, then a captain. Then in 1917, Gillette again was called into service, heading an infantry company which went overseas in 1918. When discharged in 1919, he was a major.

A graduate of Cherokee High School in 1896, Gillette received his law degree in 1900 after spending a year as an understudy to his uncle, J. D. F. Smith, who was a Cherokee attorney, and a year at Drake Law School.

He began his professional practice here in 1901.

Gillette's political career began in 1906 when he was elected county attorney. Defeated in 1908, Gillette was appointed city attorney for Cherokee.

In 1912, Gillette won election to the Iowa Senate from a district comprising Cherokee, Plymouth and Ida counties—a district which had never before sent a Democratic senator to the legislature.

Four years later, Gillette had determined that America's entry into the war in Europe was imminent, so he announced that he would not seek reelection. However, he was nominated on a write-in vote. He did not campaign for the post and was narrowly defeated.

Following World War I service, Gillette farmed near Cherokee until 1932 when he again ran for office and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Almost immediately, the Cherokee native formed a group of congressmen

from Midwest states to work for legislation that would benefit their area, and Gillette was elected chairman.

In 1936, Gillette resigned his House post and was elected to the U.S. Senate to fill a vacancy. He was reelected in 1938.

An isolationist in the years preceding World War II, Gillette often clashed with President Roosevelt, particularly concerning neutrality legislation.

On Oct. 2, 1941, amid predictions that war would break out with Japan, Gillette introduced Senate resolution calling for investigation of whether he believed to be subversive groups of Japan, the mainland and in Hawaii. And private use of his position to pass on to the State Department intelligence reports which indicated Japan planned to attack Pearl Harbor.

Once the U.S. had entered the war, Gillette began to change his philosophy. By 1944, he was recognized as an internationalist; and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he worked with Hull to chart this country's conception of the United Nations. He introduced the first Senate resolution calling for creation of the international organization.

That same year, he failed to win reelection.

In the election aftermath, President Truman offered Gillette an appointment to a federal bench, and the Cherokeean made his choice when he refused. He reasoned that he was qualified, inasmuch as he had not practiced law for years. A Washington correspondent commented that "An honest man has been found."

Appointed chairman of the Surplus Property Board, Gillette served in that capacity until 1945 when he resigned to become president of the American League for a Free Palestine.

Community Service Award Winner, Iowa Press Assn. in 1970, 1971

Cherokee Daily

Cherokee, Iowa, Saturday, March 3, 1973

102 Years Young

New Office of District Att

Property Board 1945; president of the American League for a Free Palestine 1945-1948; again elected to the United States Senate and served from January 3, 1949, to January 3, 1955; unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1954; counsel with the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee 1955-1956; counsel with the Senate Judiciary Committee 1956-1961; retired and resided in Cherokee, Iowa, until his death there March 3, 1973; interment in Oak Knoll Cemetery.

Bibliography

Dictionary of American Biography; Harrington, Jerry. 'Senator Guy Gillette Foils the Execution Committee.' *Palimpsest* 62 (November/December 1981): 170-80; U.S. Congress. *Memorial Addresses*. 93rd Cong., 1st sess., 1973. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1973.